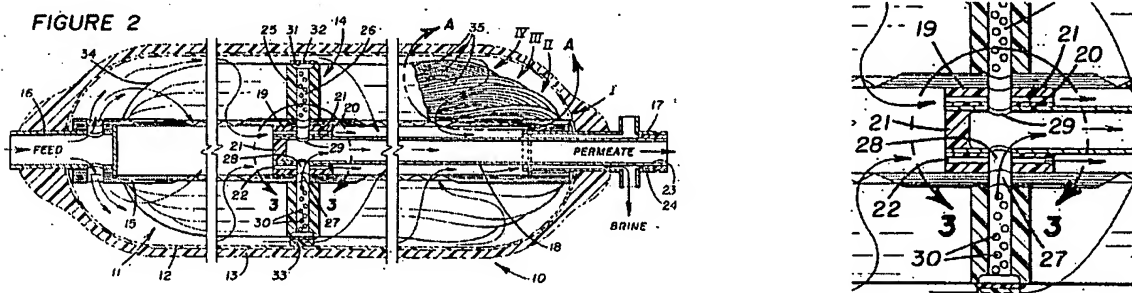


the exterior surface of said core and then flow inwardly through said pores below to an outflow side of said baffle..."

Thibos teaches that the bulk fluid must flow inwardly through the pores of the core on the feed side of the baffle. Thibos doesn't have a baffle which forces fluid outwardly but the structure which the examiner apparently considers Thibos' baffle has longitudinal feed passages 20 and 22 so that the bulk fluid passes through the feed passages 20 and 22 in the "baffle" of the core.



2. "...a bore fluid entrance manifold having a bore fluid entrance fitting..."

Thibos teaches no bore fluid entrance at all. The bores of Thibos are entered through the side walls of Thibos' fibers. Applicants have a bore fluid entrance 29.

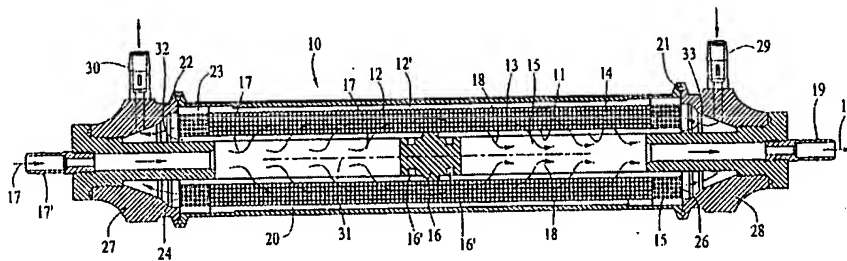
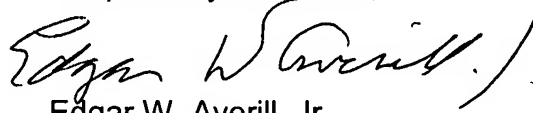


FIG. 1

Applicants' construction of a mass transfer device with a porous, hollow central core 11 with a baffle 16 that blocks flow through the inner passageway of the core is not suggested by Thibos. This baffle causes the bulk fluid to pass outwardly 17 through the porous core upstream of the baffle and around the fibers and then back into 18 the core downstream of the baffle.

The examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 as obvious over Thibos further in view of Haworth et al. Haworth et al does not make up for the deficiencies of Thibos in that, *inter alia*, it teaches no baffle to interrupt the flow through a core. Claims 3 and 4 are allowable because of the non-obviousness of Claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar W. Averill, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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